

Transporting Children Safely

It's no accident that car seats save lives.

Did you know?

- Massachusetts Law requires children to ride in child safety seats until they are 5 years old and weigh 40 pounds.
- Infants under 20 pounds and one year old should ride in a rear-facing child safety seat.
- Children who weigh 20-40 pounds and who are one to four years of age should ride in a forward-facing child safety seat.
- Children between 40 and 80 pounds, and less than 4'9" tall, should ride in a booster seat. A booster seat helps the seat belt to fit correctly and safely and gives children more comfort and visibility.
- Children 12 years old and under should sit in the rear seat whenever possible to reduce their risk of death and serious injury.



Never leave children in an unattended motor vehicle!

3 Things to Learn about Car Safety

1. **Right way to install a car seat** 85% of child safety seats are installed incorrectly! Ask a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician to inspect your car seat – **it's free!** Visit www.seatcheck.org or call 1-866-SEATCHECK.
2. **Seat belt safety rules** All children must be seat-belted. Never have more children than seat belts in your car.
3. **Airbag risks** Passenger side airbags pose significant risks to children. If the airbag deploys, an infant or toddler could die and an older child could be seriously injured. All children under 12 should not ride in the front seat if there is an airbag.



For more information

- **About car seat safety tips**, visit the **Massachusetts Department of Public Health** website www.mass.gov/dph/ for general information or their car seat fact sheet at www.mass.gov/dph/fch/injury/carsafe03.htm
- **About developing agency transportation policies**, check out EEC's latest TA Paper on Transportation www.eec.state.ma.us/x/docs/TATransportation.pdf.
- About EEC regulations, call your licenser or EEC at (617) 988-6600 or visit the EEC website at www.mass.gov/eec

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